

# Cedar Grove girl makes history

BY JENNIFER BLENNER  
of the Verona-Cedar Grove Times

In its nearly 50 years of existence, the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp has never had a cadet like Allyson Acocella.

On Friday, Allyson, a Cedar Grove resident, made U.S. Naval history.

Surrounded by television cameras, reporters, New Jersey Naval Museum officials and state officials, she became the first female cadet to receive the dolphin pin paving the way for women to now serve on submarines.

"I am truly honored to not only receive the dolphin pin, but to be the first female sea cadet ever to train on a submarine and be recognized for these accomplishments," said Allyson.

The pins – the highest honor in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service – are reserved for officers who serve on submarines, which allow only men. Although female cadets can train on a submarine, they were not allowed to serve on a submarine because of physical constraints.

The 14-year-old earned the two silver dolphins by completing rigorous mental and physical training.

Two years ago, she began her quest for the pin by training aboard the USS Ling, a World War II vessel anchored in the Hackensack River in Hackensack.

"When we first moved there, I thought it was cool because we were the only unit to work on the submarine," she said.

Allyson continued her training at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Conn. At the base, she learned every major system in the submarine. She also was taught damage control, how to fix leaks and got a small slice of what it's like to serve on a submarine, in a simulator.

After she completed submarine school, she resumed her training aboard the Ling with her unit, Iwo Jima Division, and qualified for



PIERFRANCESCO BACCARO/CLIFTON JOURNAL

Cedar Grove resident Allyson Acocella was awarded a dolphin pin, the highest honor for submarine service, on Friday aboard the USS Ling in Hackensack. Allyson is the first female cadet in the U.S. Naval history to receive this honor.

the dolphin pin.

Considered the "fish" of the family, it's no surprise that Allyson jumped right into the cadet program, according to her dad, Mike Acocella.

"She swam with the dolphins at the age of 8 or 9 at SeaWorld in Florida," he said, adding she also gets her feet wet as a member of the Montclair Kimberley Academy swim team. "She jumped up and down and was brought up on to the stage."

At 11, she joined the Navy League Cadet Corps – a program for boys and girls, at least 11 but not yet 14 years old, who are interested in the sea and ships, and seagoing services.

The Navy League program is designed to introduce youths to maritime and military life, and to prepare them for entrance into the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Two years later, Allyson began training in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a program offered to men and women, ages 11-17, whose objectives are to develop an interest and skill basic seamanship.

She also completed two boot camps at Camp Smith in upstate New York, one as a Navy League Cadet and another as a Sea Cadet. During basic training, she said she learned the fundamentals of military drills, customs and courtesies, physicals conditioning, good housekeeping and general sea-

manship.

"This allows me to be a part of something larger than myself," she said. "I believe in supporting our sailors and servicemen and women, particularly during a time of war is not only patriotic, but the right thing for every American to do."

She said her involvement in both groups has helped her feel closer to the U.S. and helped her appreciate the sacrifices made by those serving the military.

When asked about her future plans, Allyson said she would like to complete advanced training in scuba diving and begin active sea duty aboard a submarine.



For Home Delivery, please call  
1 (888) 473-2673

CLASSIFIED

ENTERTAINMENT

LIVING

B13-B15

B7

A16

BUSINESS

OBITUARIES

OPINION

B10 POLICE

A11 EDUCATION

A8 SPORTS

B1-E

On Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 10:40 a.m., Sgt. Joseph Cirasa initiated a motor vehicle stop for an observed violation. A subsequent check of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission computer revealed that the operator's driving privileges were under suspension. The 7-year-old operator, Kathleen M. Couza of West Paterson, was arrested on the charge, processed and released pending a Municipal Court appearance.

On Thursday, Jan. 26 at 4:57 a.m., Ptl. Frank Pumphrey initiated a motor vehicle stop for an observed speeding violation. A subsequent investigation revealed that the vehicle was both unregis-

tered and the operator, Lt. Carriker initiated a motor vehicle stop after observing a vehicle being operated in an erratic manner. As the officer secured the operator's credentials, he detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on the man's breath. Following a series of field sobriety tests, the officer arrested the 24-year-old operator, Telmo A. Magalhaes of Kearny, on a charge of driving while intoxicated. Subsequent to the arrest, Magalhaes was also found to be in possession of two weapons (an expandable baton and a chemical spray canister) under circumstances not manifestly appropriate

Grasso was the arresting officer. During a motor vehicle stop, driving privileges were under suspension. The 56-year-old defendant, Peter A. Marcano, was also charged with a violation of a fraud statute after it was determined that he had acquired a State of Pennsylvania driver's license by providing Pennsylvania authorities with false information as to his exact identity. The defendant was processed on all charges and released pending a Municipal Court appearance. Lt. Carriker was the arresting officer.

On Saturday, Jan. 28, a Marley Avenue resident reported acts of criminal mischief to and a theft from her parked motor vehicle. The victim reported that between the hours of 1:30 and 5:55 a.m., some unknown person(s) smashed out a window on her 1992 Infiniti and then stole her purse that had been left in the car. Any person that may have witnessed suspicious activity during the listed hours is asked to contact the detective bureau at 973-239-4100.

On Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2:28 a.m., Ptl. Scherer initiated a motor vehicle stop after observing a vehicle being operated in an erratic manner. A subsequent investigation led to the arrest of the vehicle operator on a charge that he was operating the vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. The 37-year-old defendant, Fernando

Grasso was the arresting officer. During a motor vehicle stop, driving privileges were under suspension. The 56-year-old defendant, Peter A. Marcano, was also charged with a violation of a fraud statute after it was determined that he had acquired a State of Pennsylvania driver's license by providing Pennsylvania authorities with false information as to his exact identity. The defendant was processed on all charges and released pending a Municipal Court appearance. Lt. Carriker was the arresting officer.

On Saturday, Jan. 21 at 11:16 a.m., Officer Barry and the Verona Rescue Squad responded to a Bloomfield Avenue location for a woman who had fallen. First aid was administered.

On Saturday, Jan. 21 at 7:55 p.m., Officer Michael Barone responded to a Hillside Avenue residence on a report of property damage. The resident reported a tree branch had fallen from a neighbor's tree damaging her vehicle.

On Monday, Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m., Officer Robert Shafer took a report of a lost cell phone from a Linden Avenue resident.

On Monday, Jan. 23 at 6:21 p.m., Officer Robert Shafer observed a vehicle parked in a fire zone with its hazard lights on. A computer check revealed the registration had expired in July 2005. The vehicle driver was advised that the vehicle would be impounded. One summons was issued.

On Monday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m., Officer Timothy Banta impounded a vehicle after a random computer

SEE POLICE BLOTTER, PAGE B12

## PET OF THE WEEK



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAWS

Sarafina, left, and Frances have been at PAWS for more than a year.

## Cats ready to move out

Sarafina and Frances reside in PAWS' loose cat room, where they have really bonded. They're both a little shy and need a loving home where they can really blossom. They've become very attached to each other and would love to be adopted together. Sarafina is all black; Frances is black with some white.

Both girls are spayed, up to date on their vaccinations, and

tested negative for feline AIDS and leukemia. Do come and meet them; they will make it worth your while.

To meet Sarafina and Frances, or any other cat, dog or small furry animal, please call Kathi at 973-239-0054 or PAWS at 973-746-5212. PAWS, located at 77 N. Willow St., Montclair, is open 365 days of the year from noon to 4 p.m.

## CGARS elects new officers

The Cedar Grove Ambulance & Rescue Squad recently elected officers for 2006.

Operational officers are Capt. John Bannon Sr., Assistant Capt. Patricia Lynch, Ambulance Lt. Jeff Jones, Rescue Lt. Walter Graulich.

Administrative officers are President Scott Larson, Vice President Doug Giblin, Corresponding Secretary Joyce Haine, Recording Secretary Mary Ann Niemiec and Treasurer Chris Stanecki.

## VFD elects new officers

The Verona Fire Department announces its 2006 officers: Chief Harvey Goodman, Assistant Chief Larry Burdett, Capts. Charles Magatti and Matt Antolino, and Lts. Steve LaPetra and Steven Hayes.

New residents to Verona are invited to visit the VFD booth during New Residents Night at the Verona Community Center on Feb. 7. Applications for membership will be available.

888) 473-2673  
(973) 233-5031  
(973) 239-0900  
(973) 239-7739  
sej.com

VERONA-CEDAR GROVE  
**TIMES**  
SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 1948  
433 Pompton Ave.  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009-1802  
©2006 North Jersey Media Group

USPS 658-300  
Verona-Cedar Grove Times publishes every Thursday. Offices are located at 433 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove, NJ, 07009. Average circulation verified by Certified Audit of Circulation. Periodical postage paid at Montclair, NJ. Postmaster: Send address changes to: 114 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07042.

We are not responsible for typographical errors. Verona-Cedar Grove Times welcomes readers to submit photos and press releases for possible publication. Verona-Cedar Grove Times is not responsible for submitted materials and will not return submitted materials.

Newsstand: 75 cents per copy  
Home Delivery Annual Billing Cycle: \$26 in county, \$31 out of county, but in N.J. \$46 out of state

PDF FULL-PAGE SALES  
We offer for sale PDF files of pages that appeared in this newspaper since 1/1/02. PDFs are sold for personal use only. All commercial and/or other uses are strictly prohibited and may subject one to civil penalties. PDF files: \$30. Prices include sales tax. Call (973) 569-7017 or e-mail eprints@northjersey.com